Interception of Two Beechcraft Bonanza Aircraft of Fleetwarn Drive, Texas

2551. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that violation of Indian airspace by foreign aircraft in the Western sector has become frequent;

(b) if so, what difficulties are being faced by the Indian Air Force in defending our airspace in that sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that two Beechcraft Bonanza aircraft of Fleetwarn Drive, Texas, were intercepted for flying over Gujarat in the second week of June, 1989;

(d) if so, what are the details of the incident; and

(e) what preventive measures have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not acceptable in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Four civil aircraft of a flying club of the USA were allowed to fly from Delhi to Baharin on 16-6-89 as per approved flight plan. The aircraft, however, deviated from the authorised flight path. When this deviation was detected on the radar, two of the erring aircraft were intercepted and made to land at Bhuj. Interrogration of the defaulting foreigners and enquiries into the incident indicated that it was only a case of violation of the approved flight route which is a non-coghisable offence under the Aircraft Act of 1934. Therefore, the foreigners were released on 27-6-89 and allowd to continue their flight.

(e) It would not be in the interest of national security to make this information public.

Telephone Services in Raniganj Coal Field Group Dialling Exchanges

2552. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter dated the 27th June, 1989 from Asansol Division Telephone Users' Council regarding telephone services in Raniganj Coalfield Group Dialling Exchanges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the said letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The entire Strowger system in Asansol Coal field area which includes Raniganj has been planned for replacement by E-10 B type electronic exchanges during 1990-91 with main exchange at Asansol and RLU at Raniganj. The Asansol TAX (Trunk Automatic Exchange) will be closed down in 1989-90 and all the exchanges of the Coal-belt area will be directly connected to the Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange, Calcutta.

Payment of Delivery Allowance to E.D. Branch Matters in Haryana Circle

2553. SHRI KAILASHPATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Post Master General, Haryana circle, has not paid delivery allowance to Extra Departmental branch post masters admissible to them from 1st January, 1986;